Contents

Acknowledgments vii
Introduction 1

1 An Aesthetics of the Commons 29
   The Aesthetic Commons 30
   From Columbus to Indigenous Media 32
   First Peoples, First Features 37
   The Storytelling Commons 42
   Revisionist Adaptation and the Literary Commons 47
   Cultural Indigenization 53
   The Archival Commons and the Ab-original Musical 58

2 The Upside-Down World of the Carnivalesque 68
   The People's Second Life 68
   Sacred Parody 72
   Festive-Revolutionary Practices 76
   Unruly Women 79
   Polymorphous Celebrations 83
   Stand-up Comedy and Nuclear Catastrophe 86
   Contemporary Fools 90
   Pedagogic Humor and Provocation 94
   Tropes of Social Inversion 98
   Offside Cinema 100

3 Political Modernism and Its Discontents 107
   The Two Avant-Gardes 108
   The Brechtian Legacy 110
   Beyond Brecht 120
   The Affective-Corporeal Turn 126
   The Rediscovery of Pleasure 133
   The Legacy of the V-Effect 136
   Political Cinema in the Age of the Posts 139
vi Contents

4 The Transmogrification of the Negative 145
   An Aesthetic of Mistakes 146
   Third Cinema: From Hunger to Garbage 148
   Sublime Detritus 154
   The Recombinant Sublime 158
   Anthropophagic Modernism 161
   Situationist Détournement 165
   Culture Jamming 168
   Neo-Situationism and the Aesthetics of Failure 171
   Media Jujitsu 175
   The New Kino-Eye: Vision Machines 178

5 Hybrid Variations on a Documentary Theme 185
   The Fiction–Documentary Continuum 185
   Murderous Reenactments 189
   The Mediatic Spectrum 193
   From Representation to Self-Presentation 199
   The Strategic Advantages of Hybridization 206
   Performative Films 211
   The Essay Film and Mockumentaries 215

6 Hollywood Aristotelianism, the Fractured Chronotope, 225
   and the Musicalization of Cinema 225
   Hollywood Aristotelianism: the Orthodox Chronotope 225
   Alternatives to Aristotle: the Menippean Strain 233
   Pop Culture Anachronism and the Chronotope of the Road 239
   Baroque Modernism and the Marvelous American Real 244
   Trance-Modernism 246
   Contrapuntal Variations 251
   Transformative Becomings 258
   The Shape-Shiftings of Popular Culture 266
   Metaphysical Cine-Poetry 268

7 Aesthetic/Political Innovation in the Digital Era 276
   Beyond Accelerationism: Digital Montage and Duration 282
   Tools of Engagement: Interactivity and Digital Détournement 285
   IRL Subversions: Tactical Media and Digital Materialism 288
   In Guise of a Conclusion 292

Index 298